

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT

1. WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED INFORMATION BY A STAFF MEMBER OF THE
POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP)
REGARDING A DISCUSSION IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE
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COMMITTEE AND THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT.

THE EGYPTIANS WERE ZAKARIA LOUTFI GOMA, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT, AND TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, ABAN SEIF YOUSEF AND HAMDI SALIM.

2. THE EGYPTIANS EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD COME TO EUROPE TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS TO EXPLAIN ARAB VIEWS ON PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY SAID THEY WERE ALSO PLANNING TO VISIT FRANCE, GERMANY, AND ITALY. GOMA, WHO ACTED AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EGYPTIANS, SAID THE ARABS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE TOUGH ON THOSE EUROPEANS WHOM THEY DID NOT CONSIDER FRIENDLY AND THAT THEY WANTED DEEDS, NOT DOUBLETALK. IF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TAKE ACTION TO INDICATE THEIR FRIENDLINESS TOWARDS THE ARABS, THEN EACH MEMBER STATE WILL GET THE OIL THAT IT NEEDS. HE PRAISED THE ACTIONS OF FRANCE TOWARD THE ARAB WORLD AND SAID THE POSITIONS CONSISTENTLY ADOPTED FROM DE GAULLE TO JOBERT WERE WHAT THE ARABS WANTED FROM ALL OF EUROPE. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, GIOVANNI GIRAUDO (CD, ITALY), REFERRED TO THE RECENT CONFLICT AS THE "YOM KIPPUR WAR" AND GOMA REPLIED THAT THE USE OF THIS TERMINOLOGY SHOWS PRECISELY THE EFFECT OF ISRAELI PROPAGANDA ON EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE STRESS PLACED BY THE EGYPTIANS ON NEW ARAB UNITY, GIRAUDO SAID THAT UNITY IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE ARABS MUST BE AWARE THAT THEY ARE IMPEDING AND ENDANGERING THAT UNITY BY DISCRIMINATING BETWEEN EC MEMBER STATES REGARDING OIL SHIPMENTS. GIRAUDO SAID THAT THE ARABS MUST RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF EUROPEAN UNITY TO THE MEMBER STATES AND MUST BE AS REASONABLE AS POSSIBLE IN THAT CONNECTION IF THEY EXPECT HELP FROM THE EC IN THE FUTURE. THE CONVERSATION REGARDING OIL FOCUSED MORE ON SUPPLY THAN ON PRICE; THE ONLY REFERENCE TO THE RECENT PRICE INCREASES WAS THE STATEMENT BY THE EGYPTIANS THAT IT WAS NOT THEY WHO HAD RAISED THE PRICE OF OIL, POINTING OUT THAT THE ONLY GAIN SO FAR WAS THAT THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR HAD INCREASED.

4. AT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION, GOMA INVITED MEMBERS OF THE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT AND PARLIAMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. GIRAUDO REPLIED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE INVITATION BECAUSE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST CONCERN OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AS WELL, SUCH AS THE COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY, EXTERNAL TRADE RELATIONS, ETC. THEY EGYPTIANS REPLIED THAT THE INVITATION WAS INTENDED ONLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND THEY WISHED TO LIMIT THEIR DISCUSSIONS IN CAIRO TO POLITICAL QUESTIONS. GREENWALD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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